

Governor Quinn Signs Pledge to Boost Electric Vehicle Charging Stations at State Facilities

Governor Continues Commitment to Ensuring a Clean and Healthy Environment for Future Generations

DEERFIELD – Governor Pat Quinn today signed the U.S. Department of Energy’s “Workplace Charging Challenge Pledge” which aims to increase the number of employers offering workplace electric vehicle (EV) charging stations by 2018. The Governor’s action will increase EV charging stations at state facilities, which will help reduce harmful emissions, improve the environment and protect our state’s natural resources.

“We are building a world-class infrastructure in Illinois and that includes making sure our vehicles are energy efficient,” Governor Quinn said. “This pledge will encourage employers across Illinois to consider the benefits of electric vehicles and help make Illinois a cleaner, healthier place to live and work.”

Illinois is a nationally-recognized leader in the electric vehicle movement, with 5,000 registered plug-in cars served by 450 private and public charging stations. Studies have shown that Illinois has the nation’s densest network of fast-chargers, is first among all states in “positive public opinion” toward EVs, and ranks third in EV incentives and tenth in EV market share.

Overall, 17 Illinois companies representing 32,000 employees have already taken the “Workplace Charging Challenge Pledge” in addition to the state of Illinois. The pledge was also taken by Mitsubishi, Chargepoint, MetLife, Schneider Electric, Baxter Healthcare Corporation, UL, Telefonix, Green Wheels, Township High School District 214, Northern Illinois University, Wilbur Wright College, College of Lake County, Prairie State College, Lewis and Clark Community College, Kankakee Community College, Kaskaskia College and Heartland Community College.

“Sustainability is at the core of Mitsubishi Motors Corporation’s mission - ‘Drive@earth’ - and has been for some time,” Dan Irvin, General Manager, Corporate Communications & Public Relations of Mitsubishi Motors North America (MMNA) said. “At MMNA Manufacturing, we have taken the Workplace Charging Challenge to benefit our employees and their families, our community, and our company.”

The benefits of EVs include increased fuel efficiency and decreased costs for consumers, less noise and pollution to the environment and protecting our state’s natural resources.

“Illinois is ‘greening’ its vehicle fleet because it makes good business sense,” Adam Pollet, Director of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) said. “The Land of Lincoln is the state of innovation. To attract and retain a cutting-edge workforce, Illinois employers should install EV chargers by 2015.”

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) provides rebates toward the installation of charging stations through the Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Rebate Program. Rebates cover 50 percent of equipment and installation costs up to the following caps; \$3,750 per networked single station; \$3,000 per non-networked single station; \$7,500 per networked dual station; and \$6,000 per non-networked dual station.

In 2013, the Illinois Department of Central Management Services purchased 15 electric vehicles for various state agencies using Federal funds, and another 40 were purchased this year. There are now 33 charging stations at state of Illinois facilities, including six “fast-chargers” at Illinois Tollway oases.

In June, 2014, a three-day, 370-mile EV Caravan traveled the state, stopping at 11 community colleges and other charging sites along the way. Organized by the Illinois Green Economy Network, the EV Caravan showcased the role Illinois community colleges are playing in the growth of Illinois’ EV infrastructure. A “Route 66 EV Caravan” is also planned, to embrace both our motoring past and future.

Last year, Governor Quinn was named to the White House Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience. Illinois is at the forefront of sustainability and is a nationally-recognized leader in not only the EV movement, but also the number of LEED buildings and solar power installations and other environmentally-friendly measures.

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